MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the development of 32 National Parks was formulated during 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details of the National Parks to be developed and the financial provision made therefor; and

(c) what progress has been made so far in this respect pertaining to different National Parks?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored scheme entitled 'Assistance to States for Development of National Parks' under which Central funds are provided to those National Parks which are under the complete control of the State Wildlife Wings, has been in operation since 1985-86. Similarly, those national parks that are Tiger Reserves are funded under the scheme Project Tiger. During 1988, 46 national parks have been supported under the two schemes with funds totalling Rs. 458.88 lakhs. The main items supported in national parks include *inter-alia* improving management capacity, habitat improvement, protection, interpretation and nature education, research and improvement of communication. Work on the items supported is in progress.

Development of sanctuaries

1004. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a plan for development of 105 sanctuaries during 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what progress has so far been made towards implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored scheme entitled 'Assistance to States for Development of Sanctuaries' under which Central funds are provided to those sanctuaries which are under the complete control of the State Wildlife Wings, has been in operation since 1985-86. Similarly, those sanctuaries that are Tiger Reserves are funded under the scheme Project Tiger. During 1988, 117 sanctuaries have been supported under the two schemes with funds totalling Rs. 431.24 lakhs. The main items supported in wildlife sanctuaries include *inter-alia* improving management capacity, habitat improvement, protection, interpretation and nature education, research and improvement of communication. Work on the items supported is in progress.

Promotion of environmental research

1005. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete step to encourage promotion of environmental research to contain pollution in large industrial and metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of research projects sanctioned by the Government is enclosed as statement.